

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method executed by multiple dispersed devices for adapting data received from a remote sending device in a single heterogeneous network according to quality of service parameters associated with a plurality of network segments that are downstream from the dispersed devices, the method comprising:

receiving at the dispersed devices instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the dispersed devices to adapt the data;

receiving the data from the remote sending device;

adapting the data to conform to quality of service parameters associated with each network segment downstream from one of the dispersed devices therein adapting the data at the dispersed devices rather than adapting the data at the remote sending device wherein the dispersed devices are located between the remote sending device and the plurality of network segments in the single heterogeneous network, the single heterogeneous network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination of physical and logical network constructions, the physical and logical network constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star constructions, wherein the data is adapted by implementing a compression mechanism in response to a determination that a packet size of the data exceeds a maximum transmission unit (MTU) of each network segment;

transmitting the adapted data along each network segment to one of a plurality of segment endpoints wherein the segment endpoints comprise at least one recipient client and at least one sub-segment dispersed device that further adapts the data

previously adapted to conform the data according to quality of service parameters associated with a network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream from the at least one of the plurality of segment endpoints comprising the sub-segment dispersed device; and

requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality of service parameters associated with at least one of the plurality of network segments;

wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among the plurality of network segments.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the data.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting the quality of service parameters from the device to a network administrator.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A system for transmitting data from a server to multiple dispersed receiving devices located at the end of disparate network segments in a single communications network, comprising:

a network device for distributing instructions, wherein the instructions are for adapting the data according to quality of service parameters associated with the disparate network segments in the single communications network, the single communications network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination of physical and

logical network constructions, the physical and logical network constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star constructions;

a media server for receiving the instructions from the network device, implementing the instructions to adapt the data according to the quality of service parameters therein adapting the data at the media server rather than adapting the data at the server wherein the media server is located between the server and the disparate network segments, transmitting the adapted data along at least one of the disparate network segments to at least one of the receiving devices or a second media server, and requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality of service parameters for at least one of the disparate network segments, wherein the data is adapted by adjusting a packet size of the data in response to a determination that the packet size of the data exceeds a maximum transmission unit (MTU) of the at least one of the disparate network segments; and

the second media server further adapting the adapted data to conform the adapted data according to quality of service parameters associated with a disparate network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream from at least one of the disparate network segments;

wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among the disparate network segments.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further instruct the media server to replicate the data.

Claims 20-35 (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a device to perform a method of adapting data according to a set of parameters associated with a network segment that is downstream from the device, the method comprising:

receiving at the device instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the device to adapt the data;

receiving the data from a sending device;

adapting the data to conform to a set of quality of service parameters associated with a network segment downstream from the device in a single heterogeneous network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination of physical and logical network constructions, the physical and logical network constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star constructions, therein adapting the data at the device rather than adapting the data at the sending device, wherein the data is adapted by implementing a compression mechanism in response to a determination that a packet size of the data exceeds a maximum transmission unit (MTU) of the network segment;

translating a protocol of the data according to protocol requirements of the network segment;

transmitting the adapted data along the network segment to a sub-segment device;

further adapting the adapted data at the sub-segment device to conform according to a second set of quality of service parameters associated with a network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream from the sub-segment device;

transmitting the adapted data along the network sub-segment to a client; and

requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality of service parameters for the network segment;

wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among each network segment.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 36, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the stream of data.

Claims 40-48 (Canceled)